

3. Silent Night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.



WELCOME! *Welcome to all visitors that are with us tonight celebrating the birth of our Savior from sin. We pray that God's Word has given you the comfort and assurance that your sins are paid for and forgiven by Jesus Christ. What a wonderful Christmas present God has given us all!*



OFFICIANTS:

Senior Choir Director: *Bryan Schneck*

Accompanists: *Mrs. Deanna Schneck*

Liturgists & Lectors: *Pastor Greg Sitzman & Pastor Ross Ulrich*

*From our family here at Zion to yours,
we wish you a very blessed Christmas and a
Christ-filled New Year!*



*"TODAY IN THE TOWN OF DAVID, A SAVIOR
WAS BORN FOR YOU.
HE IS CHRIST, THE LORD." (EHV)
LUKE 2:11*

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Our worship this evening is an adaptation of the *Lessons and Carols* service traditionally held at King's College, Cambridge, England, on December 24th every year. *Lessons and Carols* was first held on Christmas Eve, 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who at the age of thirty-four had just been appointed Dean of King's College after experience as an army chaplain.

Lessons for tonight have been used for almost 100 years to recall God's promise to send a Savior, as well as that promise's fulfillment.

The carols that are historically used in this service are carefully chosen because of their relationship to the lesson they follow.

Men: 2. **Shepherd why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

All: 3. **Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

PRAYER

M: When all was still and the fullness of time had come, your eternal Word, O Lord, descended from the almighty throne to dwell among us. May we receive him in the peace of forgiven hearts and proclaim your gracious good will to all people on earth; for you are the God with us, Emanuel, through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

M: May he who by his incarnation gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life. And the blessing of God Almighty: the Father, the Son (✠), and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: CW 60 (vs.2 & 3)

“Silent Night”

**2. Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar;
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia.
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!**

Narration

Ninth Lesson: John 1:1-14 - The Mystery of the Incarnation

Hymn: CW 62 (vs. 1, 3 & 4)

“Joy To The World”

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev’ry heart prepare him room
And heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world, with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

Hymn: CW 63 (vs. 1-3)

“Angels We Have Heard On High”

Women:

1. Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo!

**2022 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF
LESSONS AND CAROLS**

ZION EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, MONROE, MI



Greeting & Opening Announcements

Opening Hymn: CW 52 (vs. 1-3)

“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”

1. On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring;
On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring,
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King’s birth.
2. When sin departs before your grace,
Then life and health come in its place.
When sin departs before your grace,
Then life and health come in its place.
Angels and saints with joy may sing
All for to see the newborn King.
3. From out of darkness we have light
Which made the angels sing this night.
From out of darkness we have light
Which made the angels sing this night:
“Glory to God and peace to men
Now and forevermore. Amen.”

Lighting of Candles

EXHORTATION AND PRAYER

M: Beloved in Christ: In this Christmas season it is our duty and delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us, the Christ-child, lying in a manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days after our fall into sin to the glorious redemption brought to us by this Holy Child.

But first, let us pray for people all over the world, who would delight with us to know the good news of Jesus Christ and who would join with us in singing his praises. Let us pray for the people of our community and for all those in our own congregation.

And because this would please our Lord, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and those who are sad, the lonely and the unloved, the elderly and the little children. We especially remember all those who do not know the Lord Jesus, or who do not love him, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Finally, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light than we, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, who died in faith, and who live before the throne of God and praise him each day in his temple. We confess that we are united with them as we are united with one another.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven in the words Christ himself taught us:

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Zion Sunday School:

**2. The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.**

**All: 3. Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
Close by me forever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care
And take us to heaven to live with thee there.**

Narration

Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:8-12 - The Angels Announce Jesus' Birth to the Shepherds

Senior Choir

“Welcome To Our World”

Narration

Eighth Lesson: Luke 2:13-20 - The Shepherds Visit the Manger

Hymn: CW 57 (vs. 1-3)

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

Refrain:

**Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills, and ev'rywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.**

**1 While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light.**

Refrain

**2 The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth.**

Refrain

**3 Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn.**

Refrain

Hymn: CW 33 (vs. 1, 2 & 4)

“All Praise to You, Eternal God”

**1. All praise to you, eternal God!
Now clothed in human flesh and blood,
You took a manger for your throne
While worlds on worlds are yours alone.**

**2. Once did the skies before you bow;
A virgin’s arms contain you now
While angels, who in you rejoice,
Now listen for your infant voice.**

**4. You came to us in darkest night
OT make us children of the light;
Like angels in realms divine
Around your throne we, too, will shine.**

**PART II
THE FULFILLMENT**

Narration

Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:1-7 - The Birth of Jesus

Hymn: CW 68 (vs. 1-3)

“Away In a Manger”

**All: 1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**PART I
THE PROPHECY**

Narration

First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15 - The Seed of the Woman Will Crush the Serpent’s Head

Hymn: CW 28 (vs. 1, 4, & 5)

“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”

**1. Let the earth now praise the Lord,
Who has truly kept his word
and at last to us did send
Christ, the sinner’s help and friend**

**4Welcome, O my Savior, now!
Joyful, Lord, to you I bow.
Come into my heart, I pray;
Oh, prepare yourself away.**

**5. Crush for me the serpents’ head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to you in faith,
Safely kept through life and death.**

Narration

Second Lesson: Genesis 22:15-18 - God’s Promises to Abraham

Hymn: CW 35 (vs. 1-3)

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

**1. Of the Father’s Love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.**

2. Oh, that birth forever blessed
 When the virgin full of grace,
 By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
 Bore the Savior of our race,
 And the babe, the world's Redeemer,
 First revealed his sacred face
 Evermore and evermore.

3. This is He whom heav'n taught singers
 Sang of old with one accord;
 Whom the Scriptures of the prophets
 Promised in their faithful word.
 Now He shines, the long expected;
 Let creation praise its Lord
 Evermore and evermore.

Narration

Third Lesson: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 - The People Who Walked in Darkness Have
 Seen a Great Light

Hymn: CW 90 (vs.1-4)

“The People That In Darkness Sat”

All:

1. The people that in darkness sat
 A glorious light have seen;
 The light has shone on them who long
 In shades of death have been,
 In shades of death have been.

Women:

2. To us a child of hope is born,
 To us a son is giv'n,
 And on his shoulders ever rests
 All pow'r in earth and heav'n,
 All pow'r in earth and heav'n.

Men:

3. His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
 The Everlasting Lord,
 The Wonderful, the Counselor,
 The God by all adored,
 The God by all adored.

All:

4. His righteous government and pow'r
 Shall over all extend;
 On judgment and on justice based,
 His reign shall have no end,
 His reign shall have no end.

Narration

Fourth Lesson: Micah 5:2-4 - From Bethlehem Will Come the Ruler of Israel

Hymn: CW 66 (vs. 1-3)

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

1. O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
 Above thy deep And dreamless sleep The silent stars go by.
 Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.
 The hopes and fears Of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above,
 While mortals sleep, The angels keep Their watch of wond'ring love.
 O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,
 And praises sing To God the King And peace to all the earth.

3. How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n!
 So God imparts To human hearts The blessings of his heav'n.
 No ear may hear his coming, But in this world of sin
 Where meek souls will Receive him still, The dear Christ enters in.

Narration

Fifth Lesson: Luke 1:26-35, 38 - The Angel Gabriel Visits Mary